

Caps and cases pour from big machines

RICHMOND HILL — Every day millions of Canadians from Halifax to Vancouver are using a wide variety of products which come in containers made right here in Richmond Hill.

These products include stick deodorants, dusting powder, lipsticks, ladies' compacts and a host of other items in the toiletry and cosmetic industry.

The plastic containers and dispensers of many of these products are made by Formold Plastics of Canada Ltd., on Newkirk Ave.

Originally from Manitoba, Strong is now a Torontonian. He was sales manager for another Ethyl Corp. subsidiary in Mississauga until he was transferred to Formold here last September. In December, he was appointed president.

He lives in Mississauga where his three children are still in school. But he and his wife plan to look for a new home in Richmond Hill at the end of the school year.

"We're working hard at improving our public image in the community here," said Strong.

"But we've made a lot of changes and we have more plans for further improvements," said the president. "As a result, the rate of staff turnover has been reduced considerably in the past two months and I think we're on the right track."

In a recent consolidation of Ethyl operations in the area, Formold's valve assembly line was moved to a sister company in Scarborough and a plant in Bramalea was closed with its product line coming here.

Before the move, Formold produced valves for aerosol tins, which Strong admits is an "endangered species."

The gas propellant used in spray cans threatens to help destroy the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere which protects the earth from the sun's dangerous ultra-violet rays.

Search is on

"But the big chemical companies such as Du Pont, which make the propellants," said Strong, "are working hard to find a new gas which will be harmless."

In view of energy demands on natural gas resources, Strong said the raw material suppliers are also looking for new sources—such as coal—for producing plastic resins.

What about future expansion?

"We're always trying to expand our market," said the Formold president. "But rather than trying to steal customers away from other injection moulding companies our sales emphasis is on persuading industry to replace metal parts with plastic. Metal is very expensive."

Design staff

The company has a design staff and engineers to help customers design new containers or parts.

"But customers don't change too often. The moulds are very hard steel, precision made to a fine tolerance and a set can cost \$10,000."

The water used to cool the moulds is not a drain on Richmond Hill's municipal supply. It's recycled through the plant's refrigeration system and used over and over again.

And that's conservation.



(Photo by Hogg)

Richmond Hill plant

This is the floor of the Formold Plastics of Canada Ltd. plant where large injection molding machines are used to turn out plastic caps and cases for the toiletry and cosmetic industry. The company is a

subsidiary of Valve Corporation of America, in turn a subsidiary of Ethyl Corporation. The plant is on Newkirk Drive, Richmond Hill.

Formold is the operating name of VCA (Canada) Ltd. (Valve Corporation of America) which is owned by the Ethyl Corporation of the United States.

Key people among Formold's 150 employees are the operators of the big injection moulding machines which pour out an endless stream of bottle caps, stick deodorant barrels, lipstick cases and other products.

Basic ingredient used is a plastic resin produced in pellet form from natural gas and colored to specification or in natural clear form. Formold obtains its resin pellets from the Polysar corporation.

The pellets are melted electrically, then the molten plastic is forced under high pressure into water-cooled, steel moulds where it sets almost immediately.

Quality key

It sounds simple. But the highly competitive toiletry and cosmetic industry, which depends heavily on the appearance of the package and milady's taste, demands high quality containers. And quality control is an important factor at Formold.

Avon, Johnson and Johnson, Bristol Meyers and Gillette of Canada are some of Formold's top customers, said Elgin Strong, the company's new president.

"We also export to two of those companies' overseas plants," said Strong. "But exports are not a big part of our business yet."



Elgin Strong...Company President

T-V plan encircles old houses, architects work to save some

By Larry Johnston

THORNHILL — Thornhill has become in the last few years, a place where some of the best minds of Canadian commerce and industry sleep.

It might surprise some residents who now shop and work elsewhere to learn that over a century ago, the village was the commercial centre for a wide area. Richmond Hill paled in comparison.

Thornhill was named after Benjamin Thorne, at one time its leading citizen and a president of the Bank of Montreal.

Life in the community revolved around a series of mills on the river where people earned their money and a series of public houses on Yonge Street where they spent it.

Few commercial buildings have survived from old Thornhill but several old homes have proved more durable. Several homes on the Markham side have been saved such as Cricklewood and the Edey house moved to Lehill Drive.

With the onslaught of the Thornhill-Vaughan plan there is both a threat and an opportunity to do something about Vaughan's historic buildings.

7 top houses

The Society to Preserve Historic Thornhill has produced a list of seven significant houses, which all belonged to pioneer families.

Of these, five on Yonge Street are in the path of development. Saving them is a matter of negotiation between developers and the town of Vaughan.

They are all nice, old houses, says Terry Kelly, the Thornhill-Vaughan plan co-ordinator, but are not of particular historical or architectural significance.

A group like the historical society "can do so much more than we consultants to save them", in terms of putting pressure on council.

He also hopes the historic group will expand their interests beyond old Thornhill. There may be some "glaring omissions", of old houses on Bathurst or Dufferin.

Expert authority

One of the leading authorities in Canada in the field of restoring old buildings, Napier Simpson Jr., is a Thornhill resident.

Simpson, whose office is in a converted old house on the Markham side of old Thornhill, says the house at 7460 Yonge Street is most worthy of saving on its present site.



(Photo by Hogg)

Dates from 1840's

This substantial brick house dates from about 1840 when it was built for Robert J. Arnold, a local mill owner, whose family figured prominently in the early life of Thornhill. Architect Napier Simpson

Jr. is among those who would like to see this house preserved on its present site. Efforts are being made to build the Thornhill-Vaughan plan around several old Thornhill houses.

408 Centre Street is "probably no. 2 in the Thornhill area" from an architectural point of view.

Ran to sea

The original owner was Edward Seager. Seager and his twin brother, sons of an English vicar, ran away to sea, and found their way to Upper Canada.

They were walking up Yonge Street when they were befriended by a Thornhill couple.

Immigration policies being more encouraging than at present, they both stayed in the area.

The house built in the neo-classic tradition by John Edey for Edward Seager has survived in excellent condition. Three dormer windows were added to the front facade by a later owner.

The house, Councillor Terry Goodwin says, is now being renovated by Herb Green, a developer, who intends to live in it himself.

Chapman houses

Three other houses on the list involved the Chapman family. Nathaniel Chapman, who settled on lot 28, concession 1 of Vaughan, was one of the earliest settlers.

His granddaughter remembered his stories about Indians stealing the bread baking in the oven.

A generation later, probably in the 1840s, the house at 7396 Yonge Street was built in the neo-Loyalist Style. Simpson notes good detailing around the eaves of the storey and a half house, the gothic window and the temporary vestibule.

This house may well have been replaced by the large gothic home at 7382 Yonge Street, an example of the



House renovated

This house originally owned by Edward Seager is now being renovated. Built in the neo-

classic tradition by John Edey, it has survived from the 1840s in excellent condition.

The Liberal Section C

community news

Wednesday, February 9, 1977

Bond Lake Club skaters tested

Correspondent
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OAK RIDGES — The members of the Bond Lake Skating Club were tested in January.

The successful badge winners are: Beginner—Laura Lee Uthoff; Stroking—Craig Irvine, Julia Orris, Barbara Waller, Bonnie Waller, Susan Mohl, Kelli Cartwright and Eric Hohegeschurz;

Elementary—Kathy McClelland, Nancy McClelland, Tina O'Meara, Tracy Tomassetti and Tina Tomassetti.

Basic—Nancy McClelland, Deborah Neil, Maureen Stewart, Lynette LaRiviere, Elizabeth Murphy, and Heather Houghton.

Dance I—Christine Reddy, Clifford Andrews, Michelle Smith, Sandra Fraser, Leanne Hoover, Jackie Bowen, Simon Treisman, Nancy Houghton and Michelle Scott.

Novice II—Dorothy Beintema and Sandra Debois.

Speed—Rosanna Farrell.

Jump—Tina McTavish.

Dance II—John McTavish.

Figure—Laura LaRiviere and Deirdre Treisman and Barbara Andrews.

Free Style—Michelle Hubbard.

Valentine dance

The Bond Lake Skating Club is sponsoring a Valentine Dance on Feb. 12 in the Lions Den at Bond Lake Arena.

Tickets are \$10 per couple. They are available by calling Mabel Murphy at 773-5897 or Pat LaRiviere at 773-5201.

Seniors

The Wheelhouse club held its first evening euchre of the new year at the end of January.

The weather is still keeping some of the people indoors. Those who braved the elements had a good evening.

The lucky winners of the prizes for the evening are: Dorothy Wayne,

oak ridges lake wilcox

Robbie Cook, Violet Lupson, Cap. Hawman, Annie Phillips, and the door prize was won by Cheryl Carter.

Minor hockey

There will be a general meeting of the Oak Ridges and District Minor Hockey Association on Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lions Den at the arena.

All are welcome.

This is the time to bring forth any suggestions or ideas you might have.

Hospital auxiliary

The next meeting of the Oak Ridges and Lake Wilcox Branch of the York Central Hospital Auxiliary will be Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Lil Hafenbrack on Lakeland Cr.

All women in the area are welcome to attend. For more information please call Millie Stewart at 773-4424.

Library programs

The Charles Connor Library will be having an afternoon of films for all ages on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m.

The films to be shown are: Beau Hunks, Catch the Joy (Dune buggy, motorcycle and car races), and Coney Island.

The admission to the movies is free. But the tickets must be reserved in advance at the library or by calling 773-5533.

The St. Paul's United Church young people will be holding a family fun night Saturday, Feb. 12 at Bond Lake Arena.

Their hockey team, The God Squad, will play the Aurora Church Dodgers from 7 to 8:30. From 8:30 to 10 p.m. there will be family skating.

A special attraction on the God Squad team will be guest player past Toronto Maple Leaf star, Ron Ellis.

The admission for the evening is \$1. for adults, 50 cents for anyone under 12 and the family rate is \$2.50.

civic corner

Monday, Feb. 7 — 7:45 p.m., Council Chambers, regular council meeting.

Tuesday, Feb. 8 — 7:30 p.m., Council chambers, parks and recreation committee.

Wednesday, Feb. 9 — 7:30 p.m., committee room "B", by law, fire and personnel committee.

Monday, Feb. 14 — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., council chambers, finance committee — re budgets for 1977.

Tuesday, Feb. 15 — 4 p.m., treasurer's office, finance committee.

Tuesday, Feb. 15 — 7:30 p.m., council chambers, planning committee.

Ross Doan too full

RICHMOND HILL — Building a new school, or adding to Ross Doan Public School, won't be permitted.

That is, so long as there are pupil places available in the area, a meeting of south Richmond Hill parents was told by Walter Willms, superintendent of Area 3 for York County board of education.

Richmond Hill Trustees Robert Houghton, Bill Monroe and Eric Baker also informed the gathering of some 200 people that the only answer to overcrowding at the school would be to transport the children to five other public schools in Area 3.

These were: McConaghy and

Pleasantville in Richmond Hill; Charles Howitt and Roselawn in Thornhill; and Joseph A. Gibson in Maple.

Ross Doan, which can accommodate 312 children, is expecting 327 in the fall.

Willms told the meeting the board could transport children by grades, or by taking them to the same schools as children in their immediate area.

No figures were available on bus transport costs, as opposed to building costs.

Trustee Houghton said money was available from the ministry of education for buses, but not for building.